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June 11, 2006

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Freedman 
Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **ISSUANCE OF PURCHASE ORDERS - INFLUENZA A (H1N1)/SWINE FLU**

This is to inform you of special emergency purchases made by the Department of Public Health (DPH) during the new Influenza A (H1N1) response. These purchases did not follow usual procedure of routing non-agreement orders over \$5,000 through the Internal Services Department (ISD). Following the deactivation of the internal DPH emergency structure, DPH began discussions with ISD about current procedures and reviewing ways to avoid these types of deviations in the future.

On April 28, 2009, the County of Los Angeles declared a Local Health Emergency in response to the Influenza A (H1N1) incident. DPH immediately activated its Departmental Operation Center and instructed the Public Health Laboratory (PHL) to begin testing for Influenza A (H1N1). The PHL required supplies to carry out the testing; these were acquired through two purchase orders that exceeded DPH's delegated authority. The orders are as follows:

1. PO# Q18505-06138 (\$6,251.13): Goggles from LAB Safety Supply: Used as a measure for eye protection during sample testing, an order of goggles was initially part of a larger order made with Professional Hospital Supplies (PHS), but PHS informed DPH that the goggles were on backlog. Due to the urgency of the situation, the order of goggles was forwarded to LAB Safety Supply. Later reviews determined that goggles were not part of the LAB Safety Supply agreement.
2. PO# Q18511-05524 (\$8,337.96): Amplification Hybridization Probes Kits from Roche Diagnostic Corporation: In order for PHL laboratory technicians to continue testing for Influenza A (H1N1) throughout the weekend of May 2, 2009, an order of Amplification Hybridization Probes Kits was required. The order was placed with Roche Diagnostic Corporation, the sole manufacturer of these testing kits. DPH recognized that Roche Diagnostic was not under an agreement, however, due to the urgency of the situation and the lack of an alternative vendor, DPH made the decision to purchase from Roche Diagnostic.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:at

c: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.
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